

**Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation
Friday, September 6, 2002, 10:00 a.m.
House Room Four, The Capitol
Richmond, Virginia**

Board of Conservation and Recreation Members Present

W. Bruce Wingo
J. Benjy Burnett
Raymond Cahen

Alan Albert
J. Christian Walker Ferry
Jack McGee

Board of Conservation and Recreation Members Not Present

Robert Gordon
Blaise Lewis Hazlewood

Kristin Fedewa

Staff Present

Joseph H. Maroon
Kathleen Carter
William Conkle
David C. Dowling
Richard G. Gibbons
Warren G. Wahl

Leon E. App
Jerry Cassidy
John R. Davy
Michael R. Fletcher
Derral Jones
R. Gary Waugh

Others Present

Kevin Allgood
Peggy Bowlin
Melissa Deane
Larry Easter
Andrew Hagy
Rebecca J. Hall
W.P. Hudgins
Mary Fran Lewis
Glen Richardson
Eileen Rowan
Jordan Simmons
Woodrow Wilkerson

Carolyn Blair
Barry Carter
Bettie Duckworth
John Field
Talbot Hagood
Sam Hamilton
Patricia Jackson
Melinda Moran
Loretta Richardson
The Honorable Frank Ruff
Rex Springsten
The Honorable Tommy Wright

Conrad Bowlin
Wayne Carter
Charles Duckworth
Larry Garrison
Donald Hall
Lee Howell
Charles Jones
Diana Parker
Ed Robinson
Charles Simmons
Mildred Wilkerson
Christina Wolf

Welcome

Mr. Wingo called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed Mr. Alan Albert, of Virginia Beach who replaced Mr. Melvin Spence.

A quorum was declared present.

Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2002

MOTION: Mr. Cahen moved that the minutes of the June 26, 2002 meeting be approved as submitted.

SECOND: Mr. McGee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Maroon noted that minutes are posted on the Internet in draft format within 10 days of the meeting.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of resolution to David G. Brickley

Mr. Wingo recognized Mr. David G. Brickley, former Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and called upon Mr. App to make a presentation.

Mr. App noted that at the June 26, 2002 meeting the Board of Conservation and Recreation unanimously passed a resolution for Mr. Brickley's work with the Department and for his service in the General Assembly. The resolution read as follows:

Commending David G. Brickley for His Years of Service to the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation and to the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

WHEREAS, David G. Brickley was appointed by Governor James Gilmore to be the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation on January 17, 1998, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brickley served in the United States Air Force in Vietnam where he received the Bronze Star, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brickley was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1975, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brickley served as Chairman of the House Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee and as Vice Chairman of the House

Finance Committee, and served on the House Courts of Justice Committee, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brickley served 20 years on the Conservation and Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee including special submitted assignments related to Conservation and Natural Resources, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brickley served four years as secretary of the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation, and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Brickley's leadership, Virginia State Parks were recognized as the best managed state park system in the nation,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation recognizes and applauds Mr. David G. Brickley for his commitment to the recreational and natural resources of the Commonwealth, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on this date, June 26, 2002 the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation establishes as public record their deep appreciation for Mr. Brickley's years of service.

Mr. Brickley thanked members and noted that his four years at DCR were most enjoyable.

Mr. Maroon noted that a similar resolution had been passed recognizing Mr. James Stutts. As Mr. Stutts was unable to attend this meeting, the resolution will be presented at an appropriate time.

Resolution recognizing Mr. Spence

Mr. Wingo directed members attention to the draft resolution honoring Mr. Melvin Spence for his years of service to the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Cahen moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation adopt the suggested resolution regarding the service of the Honorable Melvin D. Spence as a member of the Board of Conservation and Recreation.

SECOND: Mr. Albert.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The resolution reads as follows:

Commending Melvin D. Spence for His Years of Service to the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation.

WHEREAS, Mr. Melvin D. Spence is a registered architect in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

WHEREAS, Mr. Spence holds a license with the Virginia Real Estate Board, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spence served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates in 1982, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spence has served for eight years as a member of the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spence has demonstrated a continual appreciation of and commitment to the recreational and natural resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Spence, has stepped down from the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation recognizes and applauds Mr. Melvin D. Spence for his commitment to the recreational and natural resources of the Commonwealth, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on this date, September 6, 2002 the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation establishes as public record their deep appreciation for Mr. Spence's years of service.

Mr. Wingo noted that the resolution for Mr. Spence would be presented in an appropriate manner.

Recreational Access Road Proposals

Mr. Davy noted that DCR coordinates the recreational access roads program and has responsibility for designating public recreation areas. The Board of Conservation and Recreation acts in an advisory capacity to the Director.

Mr. Cassidy presented the following proposals:

Carter Pines Community Park, Hillsville

Mr. Cassidy noted that Carroll County is requesting \$50,000 in VDOT funds to provide an access road to Carter Pines Community Park. The park has been dedicated by the county and DCR has received the necessary resolutions from both the Town of Hillsville and Carroll County.

Paul C. Edmonds, Jr. Memorial Park, Halifax County

Halifax County is requesting \$168,000 in VDOT funds to propose a road off of Route 716 that will provide access into the park. The park land is a former peach and dairy farm that has been dedicated to the county for a public facility. DCR has received the appropriate resolutions from Halifax County and the Town of South Boston.

MOTION: Mr. Ferry moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation accept the access road proposals as presented by the staff and recommend to the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation that action be taken to designate the Carter Pines Community Park in Hillsville and the Paul C. Edmonds, Jr. Park in Halifax County as public recreational areas and that the Commonwealth Transportation Board provide Recreational Access Road Funds for these public parks.

SECOND: Mr. Burnett

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Master Planning Process

Mr. Davy introduced the master planning process. He noted that in 1998 the General Assembly established the master planning process. Plans for all parks are to be completed by December 31, 2003. To date, seventeen have been approved and adopted. Eight will be addressed in calendar year 2002.

Mr. Davy noted the following:

- DCR's process requires a number of actions. Requirements include two separate public meetings, as well as a presentation to the Board of Conservation and Recreation.

- Once the Board makes a recommendation to the DCR Director, the Director then notifies the General Assembly and allows a period of time for comments prior to final adoption.
- Master plans are set up on a 20-year planning process. Completion of the plan is contingent upon funding. Plans must be reviewed every five years.

Mr. Davy noted that, of the three Master Plans being presented, each park was included in the upcoming general obligation bond referendum. Mr. Davy then introduced Mr. Gibbons to present the plan for Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park.

Mr. Maroon noted that Mr. Gibbons was retiring after almost 38 years with the Commonwealth. He noted that Mr. Gibbons has been an exemplary and outstanding public servant.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park

Mr. Gibbons noted that the location of Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park has been recognized historically as a gathering "place." The Master Plan suggests a continuance along those lines.

He noted the following:

- The Frank property is a new acquisition and is the proposed location for the visitor center.
- The bridge crossing of Sailor's Creek needs to be replaced. Currently it does not support buses and emergency vehicles.
- The Hillsman House dates back to late 1700s and has been basically in continuous use until the park was acquired in the 1930s.
- Staff hopes to preserve the cultural landscape as it existed in 1965.

The Master Plan sets out the purpose of Sailor's Creek Battlefield as follows:

The purpose of Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park is to preserve the cultural landscape as it was in 1865, and to provide the historic setting to tell the story of the last major battle of the Civil War in Virginia, before the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's Army at Appomattox Courthouse, and its impact on the citizens of Southside Virginia.

For the purpose of developing this master plan, the following goals were established for Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park.

- Protect and conserve the historic and cultural resources of the park.
- Provide historical interpretive/educational programs and low impact recreational opportunities to the public.

- Protect and conserve the natural resources of the park while actively interpreting the agricultural use of the land.
- Participate in mutually beneficial efforts with partner citizens and organizations to enhance the park and the entire region.
- Administer and manage the park in a manner which fosters the public's trust.

There are three phases to the development process as follows:

Phase I – Enhancements will include cemetery improvements and adjacent parking, comfort station, Hillsman House stabilization, visitor center and supporting parking facility, maintenance facility, trail development, and viewshed and landscape enhancements.

Phase II – Enhancements will include a stabilized parking area to support the historic demonstration area, Hillsman House renovations, and landscape and viewshed protection measures.

Phase III – Enhancements to include construction of group camp, staff residence, landscape and viewshed protection measures.

Mr. Albert comment that this was an extremely important location and an important site to preserve.

Mr. Wingo called for public comment regarding Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park.

Ms. Diana Parker, representing the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club spoke in favor of the plan. She said she believed it necessary to protect the vistas and historic buildings.

Ms. Parker also noted that the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports the referendum.

MOTION: Mr. Cahen moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation endorse the Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park Master Plan and recommend that the Director approve and implement the plan.

SECOND: Mr. Burnett

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Bear Creek Lake State Park

Mr. Derral Jones presented the Master Plan for Bear Creek Lake State Park. He noted that he had assumed responsibility for the plan following the retirement of Jim Guyton.

Mr. Jones noted that Bear Creek Lake State Park was originally acquired from private citizens around 1932 by the United States Department of Agriculture under the Federal Resettlement Act. The property became a state park in 1962.

Phase I: Enhancements will include construction of up to 20 housekeeping cabins, consisting of a combination of two-bedroom units, three-bedroom units, and six-bedroom family lodges; a connection to the county sewer system will also be built. Other enhancements will include renovation of the beach restroom/shower for year-round use, expansion of the beach parking area by approximately 50 spaces, provision of additional trails, and construction of both a multi-purpose building/meeting space and a picnic shelter, plus roads and utilities.

Phase II: Enhancements will include renovation of the restroom/shower building in campground loop C for year-round use, construction of a staff residence, and installation of three pedestrian bridges for the trail system.

Phase III: Improvements in this phase include development of a new restroom/shower building for camping loop B and reconfiguring the campground to add approximately 15 new spaces with water and electric service. During this phase, the archery range will be relocated to the Cumberland State Forest.

Mr. Wingo called for public comment.

Ms. Diana Parker spoke in support of the plan on behalf of the Falls of the James Group.

She advocated additional operating funds and increased staff size for state parks.

MOTION: Mr. Cahen moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation endorse the Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park Master Plan and recommend that the Director approve and implement the plan.

SECOND: Mr. McGee.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman called for a 10 minute recess.

Following the recess, Mr. Wingo recognized Mr. Gibbons for the presentation of the Occoneechee State Park Master Plan.

Occoneechee State Park

Mr. Gibbons noted the following:

The purpose of Occoneechee State Park is to provide now and conserve for future generations, the opportunity for visitors to experience and enjoy this 2,695 acre park, while providing access to and recreation opportunities on and along Virginia's largest lake and interpreting southside Virginia's Native American Culture and Living History.

For the purpose of developing this master plan, the following goals were established for Occoneechee State Park:

- Protect, conserve and enhance the natural, cultural and scenic resources of the park.
- Provide diverse year-round recreation opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing, and other water-based recreation.
- Provide and manage support service and facilities in a professional manner to enhance visitor safety, enjoyment and satisfaction.
- Participate in mutually beneficial economic development activities, which promote the lake region's quality of life and tourism.

The park master plan would be developed in the following phases.

Phase I – Enhancements to include construction of a park office/contact station/administration center; changes to existing campground B; renovation of the current park office/visitor center; and establishment of a cabin area, equestrian area, trails, a Native American village, and access road improvements.

Phase II – Enhancements to include access road improvements and development of the following: interpretive features of the Occoneechee Plantation site, water contact area, Occoneechee Island Interpretive Station, and elements of the trail system.

Phase III – This phase will include enhancement to the existing amphitheater/performance center, conversion of campground A to group camp facility; construction of the Environmental Education/Native American Support Center, possible relocation of the Native American Village to a site further down the peninsula, and the continued expansion of the park's trail system.

Open Space/Recreation Area/Suggested Location for Three Golf Holes

This site would be managed and programmed primarily as open space. This could include additional linking trails to other park areas and access trails to the lake.

Alternatively, this is the area proposed by the Town of Clarksville and the Clarksville Industrial Development Authority for the location of up to three golf holes. The golf holes are proposed as a part of the golf course planned for a portion of the adjacent Virginia Lakeside Commerce Park. Approval of the three golf holes is contingent on meeting the requirements of Chapter 809 of the 2002 Virginia Acts of Assembly (formerly SB249). Any requirements deemed necessary by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (which owns the entire park property) or the Department of Conservation and Recreation to ensure the integrity of the state park also will need to be met.

The requirements of Chapter 809 of the 2002 Virginia Acts of Assembly include:

1. Any sublease of the lands by the Commonwealth must be with a public entity under terms and conditions the Department deems proper and with the approval of the Governor and in a form approved by the Attorney General.
2. The purpose of the lease amendment is to allow certain property currently owned by the federal government and leased by the Commonwealth within Oconeechee State Park, if approved by the federal government, to be used for a recreational facility that will not be operated under the purview of the Department of Conservation and Recreation.
3. The sublease shall require the approval of the Secretary of the Army.
4. Any further subletting of the property by the public entity shall be to another public entity and shall be subject to review and approval by the Department, with the approval of the Governor and in a form approved by the Attorney General. Upon expiration of the sublease, or when the subleasee no longer wishes to have the property operated under the terms of the sublease, the subleasee shall return the property to the Department in the condition specified in the sublease.

The provisions of the Act expire on July 1, 2004, unless the amendment has been incorporated into the lease agreement by July 1, 2004.

It is further noted that should the sublease be through the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state's capital construction guidelines will need to be met. These guidelines apply to all state-owned or leased land. This includes:

1. The preparation and approval of an Environmental Impact Report in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Department of Environmental Quality.
2. Review and approval of all plans and construction documents by the Department of General Services prior to construction.
3. Art and Architecture Review Board approval of any facilities constructed on owned or leased lands of the state.
4. State approval of erosion and sediment and storm water management plans for portions of project on lease land.

In addition to the above state requirements, the subleasee will also have to meet the environmental requirements of the Corps of Engineers as well as any other additional approvals required by the federal government.

Should the golf course project move forward and ultimately be approved by the Corps of Engineers, the Department and the Governor, it will need to be developed in a manner that is protective of state and federal natural resources. It will also need to be fully compatible and consistent with the other uses noted in the park's approved master plan. Furthermore, it appears advisable from the state's perspective that any lease for the necessary acreage be directly with the Corps of Engineers and not as a sublease with the Department. A direct lease between the Corps and the Town would remove the Commonwealth from any liability or resolution of lease compliance issues that could affect the parkland leased from the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Wingo asked if Board members would like to comment.

Mr. McGee asked for clarification regarding the mutually beneficial economic development activities.

Mr. Gibbons said that would include enhancing the overnight component through the introduction of swimming, cabins and education.

Mr. Wingo called for public comment regarding the proposed Oconeechee State Park Master Plan. He noted that, due to the number of individuals requesting to speak, comments would be limited to three minutes. He also recognized members of the General Assembly present.

Comments of the Public

Mr. Charles Simmons

Chairman, Clarksville Industrial Development Authority

Mr. Simmons said that he served on the Master Park planning committee with Mr. Gibbons. He said that he believed all of the stakeholders were included in the process and that the developed plan would well serve generations to come. He noted that the 23 acres proposed for the three golf greens represented less than one percent of the park.

Mr. W.P. Hudgins

Chairman, Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Hudgins said that each member of the Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors wished to express support for the proposed park master plan as presented. He noted that the area is suffering economically. He noted that the Board of Supervisors believes the plan as proposed will enhance the tourism opportunities in the region.

Mr. Cahen asked Mr. Hudgins if there was anything the Board could do to ensure that local citizens were hired for the process of building and operating the golf course.

Mr. Hudgins said the Board would do what it could to make that happen.

Ms. Diana Parker

Virginia Chapter, The Sierra Club

Ms. Parker noted that The Sierra Club generally supports the plan, but does not support the golf course. She said the concern is that the golf course would destroy the buffer between the industrial park and Buggs Island Lake. She expressed concern regarding the pesticides and other chemicals needed to develop and keep the golf course.

Mr. Burnett noted that he also serves as the Mayor of Clarksville. He said that the town manager would be able to address those comments.

Mr. Wingo noted that Mr. Burnett has stated that he will abstain from the official vote, but will speak on behalf of the Town of Clarksville and as a member of the Board.

Mr. John Field

Clarksville Industrial Development Authority

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, retired

Mr. Field noted that he is a retired police officer and has lived in the area prior to the designation of the state park. He noted the proposed course is a public course. He also commented that much of the area surrounding the lake is under federal ownership and thus there are restrictions on buying. He noted also that the federal government must approve any development on the land. He spoke in support of the golf course.

Mr. Donald Hall

Clarksville

Mr. Hall noted that he and his wife run an art gallery in Clarksville. He expressed an interest in the history of Clarksville. He said that bringing in new opportunities for recreation can enhance any business in the area. He noted that as the only town on the reservoir, they had little access to the water.

Melinda Moran

Clarksville Town Manager

Ms. Moran stated that with their location on the lake, Clarksville is blessed with water resources. She said that the drought affects the town recreationally, but has not impacted the water supply to citizens. She noted that the town has actively participated in the archaeological survey for the area and that there were no significant findings for the 23 acre area.

Ed Robinson

Clarksville

Mr. Robinson spoke as a user of Occoneechee State Park. He said that he believed the golf course would enhance the park and enable more Virginians to enjoy the park.

Talbot Hagood

Sierra Club Thunder Ridge Group, Clover

Mr. Hagood said that the members of the Sierra Club Thunder Ridge Group are in agreement with Ms. Parker. He said that Virginia State Parks are places of natural beauty to set aside native flora and fauna. He said golf courses do not promote natural beauty. He expressed a concern that golf courses create sprawl to contaminate the lake with runoff.

Barry Carter

Southside Virginia Native American Descendents Association

Mr. Carter said that he believed he spoke for eighty to ninety percent of the citizens of Mecklenburg County as well as for 100,000 Native Americans in Virginia and North Carolina. He said in general he supported the Master Plan, but not the golf course. Mr. Carter said that Oconeechee State Park is a sacred park for Native Americans as it represents Oconeechee Island. He expressed concern that the golf course would change the personality of the state park. He noted that Clarksville already has a premier golf course. He presented a petition in opposition to the golf course with approximately 1,000 signatures. He noted that many would support the development of a town beach.

Glen Richardson

Mr. Richardson noted that as a citizen of a neighboring county he believed the 23 acres for the three proposed greens should be relocated on land not affecting the state park.

Loretta Richardson

Ms. Richardson noted that the proposed Master Plans for Sailor's Creek and for Bear Creek Lake mentioned in their statement of purpose that one of the purposes of the park was to foster public trust. She noted that statement was absent from the Oconeechee plan. She said that she did not believe the public trust would be honored if public lands were given away for golf courses and other uses. She said she believed the golf course could be designed as to not encroach on the state park.

Patti Jackson

James River Association

Ms. Jackson noted that while the park is not in the area covered by the James River Association that the association is working to protect Virginia's environment. She said that in the 2002 Virginia Outdoor Plan that 93 percent of Virginian's say it is important to protect open space. She noted that there has never been a golf course on state park land. She said that the golf course would send the wrong message concerning the park and natural areas General Obligation Bond on the ballot for November. She said the Department of Economic Development should be helping Clarksville and that it was not the responsibility of the Board or DCR to promote economic development.

Charles Jones

Clarksville Town Council

Mr. Jones said that his constituents are overwhelmingly in support of the plan and the golf course. They believe it will bring jobs and additional business development.

Wayne Carter

Assistant County Administrator for Mecklenburg County

Mr. Carter said that the County of Mecklenburg supports the proposed plan. He noted that Clarksville has lost major manufacturers and jobs. He said the Master Plan is a cornerstone of the development needed to help bring in tourism to the area. He noted that the Virginia Outdoors Plan lists golf as an important activity.

Charles Duckworth

Chairman, Chase City Industrial Development Authority

Mr. Duckworth noted that Chase City is only fourteen miles north of Clarksville. He said the area has lost 1,100 jobs in the last two years due to plant closings. He said the proposed golf course would greatly enhance the park and add to the economy.

The Honorable Tommy Wright

Delegate, 61st District

Delegate Wright said that he believed the purpose statement was consistent with the plan as developed. He noted that there are several safeguards built into the development process, including the necessary approval by DCR, the Army Corps of Engineers, the General Assembly, the Governor and the Secretary of the Army. He expressed full support of the proposed Master Plan.

Christina Wolf

Virginia Forest Watch

Ms. Wolf noted that three holes of golf would not employ all the people who have lost their jobs in Mecklenburg County. She said the question was the appropriateness of allowing a private entity to use state park land to build the golf course.

Eileen Rowan

Audubon Society

Ms. Rowan spoke representing the Audubon Society. She said the society shares the concerns for the economic vitality of the region. She said that eco-tourism had been overlooked. She said numerous jobs can be created through educational and recreational opportunities.

Andrew Hagy

Clarksville Economic Development

Mr. Hagy noted that he was representing the Town of Clarksville as well as speaking as a native of the area. He noted that thousands of rural Virginians are trying to make ends meet and that the Town was exploring creative ways to bring jobs and tax revenues to the communities. He urged the Board to support the proposed plan.

The Honorable Frank Ruff

Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Ruff stated that he has been familiar with Occoneechee State Park for thirty-five years. He noted that the Town of Clarksville owns the adjoining property being proposed for the golf course. He said the town could either bring in industry or create opportunities through recreation. The town chose the golf course on a piece of property that would be an asset. The golf course will not replace 3,000 jobs, but is one piece of the puzzle.

Woodrow Wilkerson

Mr. Wilkerson noted concern about the water usage by the golf course. He noted that nearby farms are not allowed to take water from the lake for cattle. He noted the golf course would be a public course, but owned by private individuals.

End of Public Comment Period

Mr. McGee asked about the issue of buffering the golf course land and the lake.

Mr. Burnett noted that the course was no different than other golf courses on the water.

Mr. Maroon noted that the Department has not received final development plans.

Mr. McGee said the Board may wish to stipulate a certain amount of buffering.

Mr. Cahen said that it was difficult to visualize the entire scope of the course from the maps provided. He said that he was not prepared to vote for the plan in good conscience. He said he would propose that a vote on the plan be postponed until the Board is able to see what kind of impact the golf course would have on surrounding areas.

MOTION: Mr. Cahen moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation table the vote concerning the proposed Occoneechee State Park Master Plan until the November meeting in order for staff to provide additional graphics and details concerning the location of and the imprint of the golf course on areas in and surrounding the park.

SECOND: Mr. McGee.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Burnett noted that he would abstain.

Mr. Albert noted that there appeared to be some legal issues that should be addressed. Those issues include the archaeological survey. He noted that the Department of Historic Resources should be consulted. He also noted that there were some

procurement concerns and asked if Mr. Cahen would agree to amend the motion to broaden the charge to the staff to address these issues.

Mr. Cahen accepted the amendment to his motion.

Mr. Maroon recapped the motion to state that the Board moves to table action concerning the proposed Oconeechee State Park Master Plan and directs the staff to provide additional graphics concerning the location and imprint of the golf course, consult with the Department of Historic Resources, address concerns of buffer issues and address procurement concerns.

VOTE: Motion carried with Mr. Burnett abstaining.

Mr. Wingo thanked the members of the public for their attendance and participation.

Director's Update

Mr. Maroon noted that, due to the budget crisis, all state agencies have been asked to develop plans for seven, eleven and fifteen percent reductions.

Due to the hour, Mr. Maroon dispensed with the remainder of his report.

General Obligation Bond Update

Mr. Maroon noted that approval of the Master Plans are a part of the General Obligation Bond process.

Mr. Cahen asked how in times of a budget crisis the state could envision paying back the bonds.

Mr. Maroon noted that the state debt capacity is more than previously noted and that money to repay the bonds has already been built into the budget.

Mr. Cahen noted that this information should be disseminated to the public.

Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be November 7, 2002. Time and location will be determined and members will be notified.

The Board will also meet in early January, 2003.

Other Business

Mr. Maroon noted that at the next meeting, up to five Master Plans will be presented for consideration.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

W. Bruce Wingo
Chairman

Joseph H. Maroon
Recording Secretary